

A Potential Study Topic for Lexington's Demographic Change Task Force

April 14, 2009

TYPICAL METHOD OF FORECASTING KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT – THE SIMPLEST CASE



100 Children born this year to mothers residing in Town

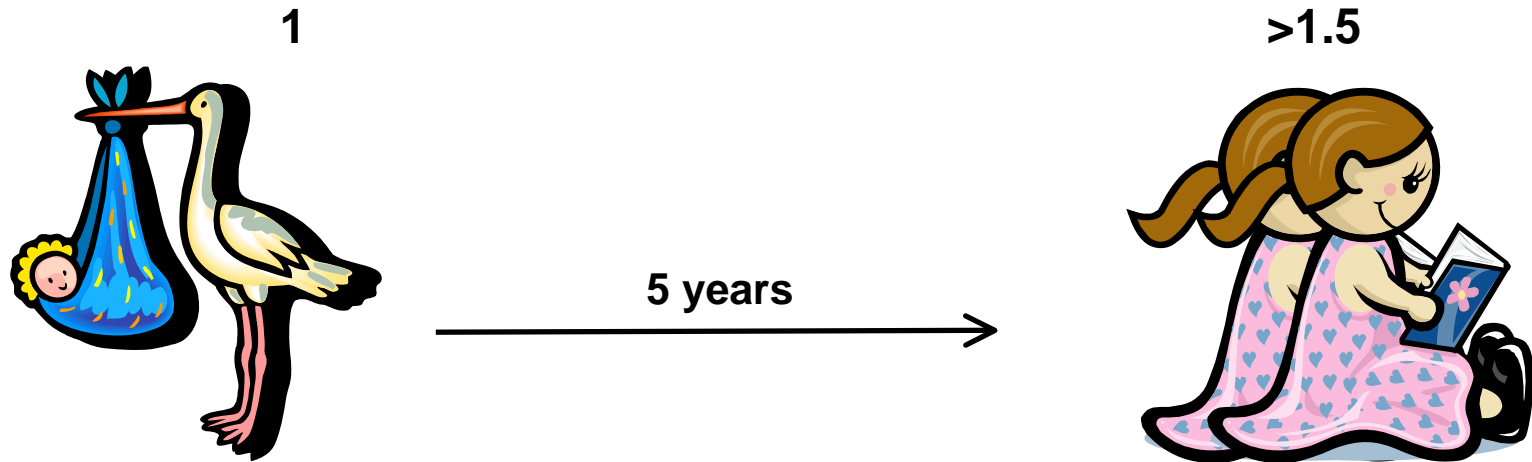
5 years



100 enroll in the Town's Kindergarten 5 years later

Using Paul Ash's terminology, this would be a "Birth to Kindergarten Progression rate" of 1.00

IN LEXINGTON , THE SITUATION IS MORE COMPLICATED

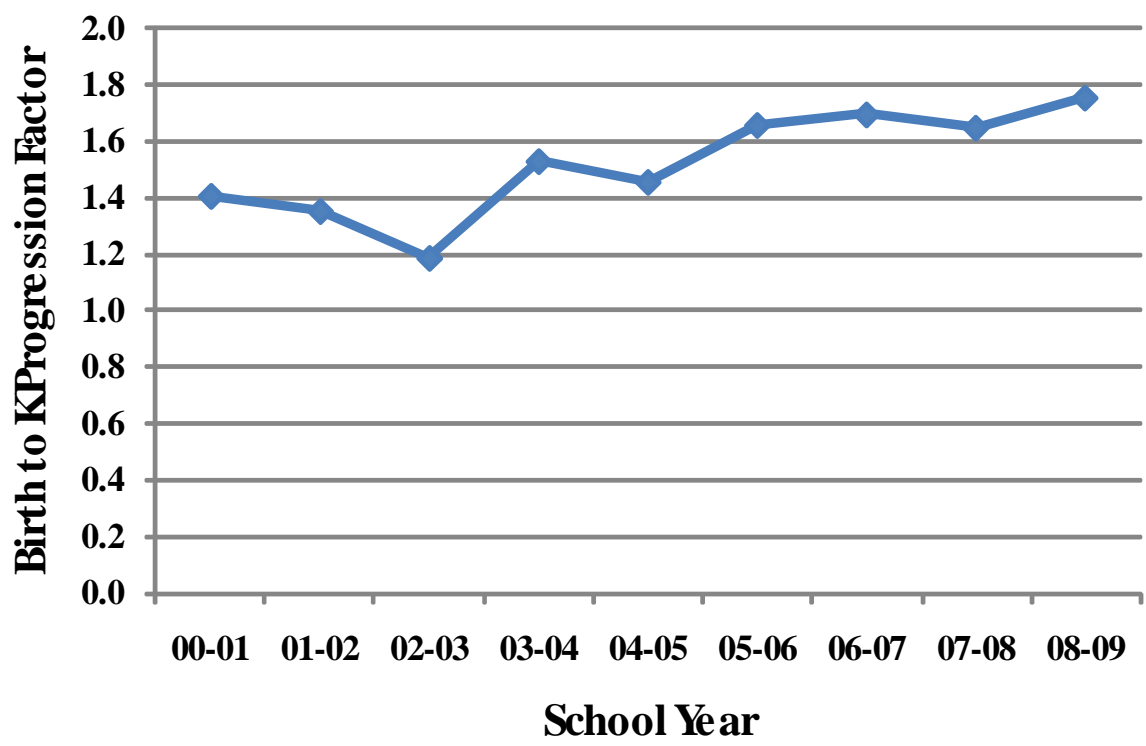


“Birth to Kindergarten Progression rate” is considerably greater than 1

Simple model doesn't work; something else must be happening:

- Families moving into Lexington just in time to enroll children in Kindergarten? (If so, parents likely to be in 30-39 age group.)
- Many more children being adopted by Lexington parents?
- Births to women residing in Lexington under-reported?
- Other?

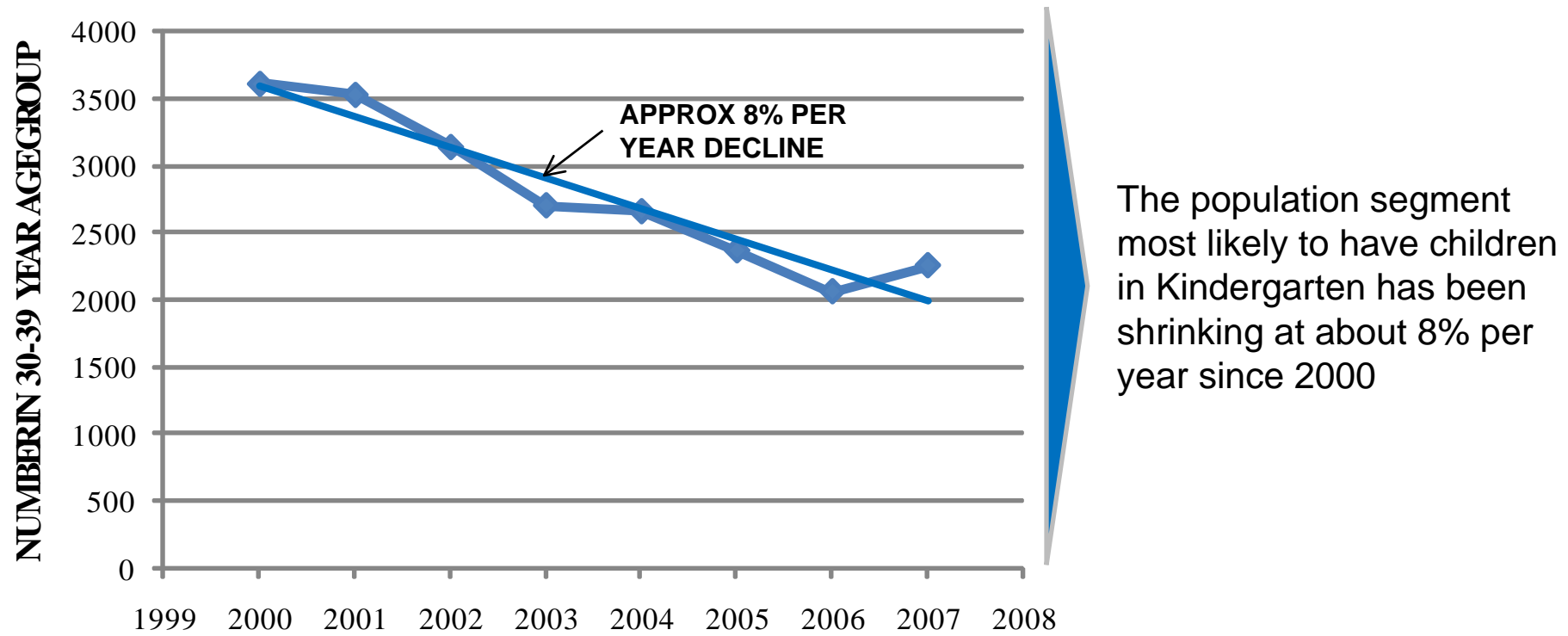
IN LEXINGTON, THE “BIRTH TO K PROGRESSION FACTOR” IS GROWING*



- Factor(s) at the root of the trend becoming more significant
- Reason for the Fall 2008 “Kindergarten Surprise”?

* Birth to K Progression factor differs from that in Paul Ash’s presentation

YET LEXINGTON'S POPULATION IN THE 30 – 39-YEAR AGE GROUP IS DECLINING*



* Data taken from a table in Paul Ash's presentation

SHOULD THE DEMOGRAPHIC TASK FORCE STUDY THIS APPARENT MYSTERY?

POTENTIAL TOPICS

- Causes of the declining population in the 30-39 year age group and projections for the next 5 -10 years
- Causes of the apparently rising Kindergarten enrollment and projections over the next 5 – 10 years